DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY JL DATE 9/30/82
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☒
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

June 8, 1981
1115 hrs

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PRESS GUIDANCE

The Government of Israel has informed the United States that the Israeli Air Force attacked the Iraqi Nuclear Research Facility at Tuwaitha on June 7. We had no prior knowledge of the raid and we have no further information. We are now seeking more information concerning the attack. This is clearly a very serious development and a source of utmost concern.

We have no first-hand details of the attack or of the overall damage, including casualties. Our initial estimate of potential radiation effects is that they would probably be limited to the immediate vicinity of the installation. This is based on preliminary information about the amount and quality of material in the facility at the time of the attack. The United States government is ready to respond to any requests for help in monitoring the extent of any nuclear effects and in dealing with any other related problems.

Once we have additional information we will have more to say about this matter

UNCLASSIFIED

June 8, 1981
1300 hrs.

STATEMENT

The United States Government condemns the reported Israeli air strike on the Iraq nuclear facility, the unprecedented character of which cannot but seriously add to the already tense situation in the area. Available evidence suggests US-provided equipment was employed in possible violation of the applicable agreement under which it was sold to Israel, and a report to this effect is being prepared for submission to the U.S. Congress in accordance with the relevant U.S. Statute.

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~~FBIS 23'''''''''''''~~ (SEE 21--ISRAELI PLANES)

ISRAELI PLANES ATTACK IRAQ NUCLEAR REACTOR

TAKE 1--ISRAELI ATTACK

TA#81412 JERUSALEM DOMESTIC SERVICE IN HEBREW 1400 GMT 8 JUN 81

(TEXT) HERE IS A SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL: YESTERDAY THE ISRAEL AIR FORCE SET OUT TO ATTACK THE NUCLEAR REACTOR (OFIRAQ), WHICH IS NEAR BAGHDAD. OUR PILOTS FULFILLED THEIR ASSIGNMENT IN ITS ENTIRETY. THE REACTOR HAS BEEN COMPLETELY DESTROYED. ALL OUR PLANES RETURNED SAFELY TO THEIR BASE.

THE GOVERNMENT SEES IT TO BE ITS DUTY TO EZPLAIN TO THE INFORMED PUBLIC WHY IT DECIDED ON THIS SPECIAL OPERATION. FOR A LONG TIME WE HAVE BEEN WATCHING WITH GRAVE CONCERN THE SETTING UP OF THE (OFIRAQ) ATOMIC REACTOR. SOURCES, WHOSE RELIABILITY CANNOT BE IN ANY DOUBT, HAVE INFORMED US THAT THE REACTOR IS, DESPITE ITS CAMOUFLAGE, MEANT TO PRODUCE ATOMIC BOMBS. THE TARGET FOR THESE BOMBS WAS ISRAEL. THIS HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED EXPLICITLY BY THE RULER OF IRAQ.

(MORE)

8 JUN 1430Z JA/SAH'''''''''''''

FBIS 24*****

TAKE 21123 (ISRAELI ATTACK)

/// RULER OF IRAQ.

(TEXT) AFTER THE IRANIANS HAD, AT THE TIME, HIT THE REACTOR SLIGHTLY, SADDAM HUSAYN NOTED THAT THE IRANIANS' ATTACK WAS USELESS, SINCE THE REACTOR WAS BEING INSTALLED SOLELY AGAINST ISRAEL.

THE ATOMIC BOMBS THAT THIS REACTOR WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PRODUCE, BE IT FROM ENRICHED URANIUM OR FROM PLUTONIUM, WOULD HAVE BEEN OF THE TYPE OF BOMB THAT WAS DROPPED ON HIROSHIMA. THUS A DANGER TO THE EXISTENCE OF THE ISRAELI NATION HAD BEEN CREATED.

FROM MOST RELIABLE SOURCES AGAIN, WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED OF TWO DATES FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE REACTOR AND ITS ACTIVATION: ONE, THE BEGINNING OF JULY 1981; THE SECOND, THE BEGINNING OF SEPTEMBER THIS YEAR. WITHIN A SHORT TIME THE IRAQI REACTOR WOULD BE ACTIVATED AND HOT. UNDER SUCH CIRCUMSTANCES, NO ISRAELI GOVERNMENT COULD HAVE DECIDED ON THE BOMBING OF THE REACTOR. ITS BOMBING WOULD HAVE CAUSED A HUGE DEADLY RADIOACTIVE WAVE IN THE DIRECTION OF BAGHDAD, AND ITS INNOCENT RESIDENTS WOULD HAVE BEEN HIT. WE WOULD, THEREFORE, HAVE HAD TO LOOK ON PASSIVELY AT THE PROCESS OF PRODUCING ATOMIC BOMBS IN IRAQ, WHOSE DICTATOR WOULDN'T HAVE THE SLIGHTEST HESITATION IN DROPPING THEM ON ISRAEL AND CONCENTRATIONS OF ITS POPULATION. HENCE, THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL DECIDED TO ACT WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY TO INSURE OUR NATION'S SECURITY.

(MORE)

8 JUN 1443Z JTD/SAH*****

FBIS 25*****

TAKE 3 OF 3--23 (ISRAELI ATTACK)

/// OUR NATION'S SECURITY.

(TEXT) THE PLANNING WAS METICULOUS. THE OPERATION WAS SET FOR SUNDAY, (7 JUNE--FBIS), ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT FROM 100 TO 150 FOREIGN EXPERTS WHO WERE WORKING ON THE REACTOR WOULDN'T BE THERE ON THE CHRISTIAN SABBATH. THIS ASSUMPTION PROVED TO BE RIGHT. NO FOREIGN EXPERT HAS BEEN HIT.

TWO EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS AIDED THE IRAQI DICTATOR, IN RETURN FOR OIL, IN THE PRODUCTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS...WE CALL ON THEM AGAIN TO CEASE THIS HORRIBLE INHUMAN ACT. WE SHALL UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ALLOW THE ENEMY TO DEVELOP WEAPONS OF ANNIHILATION AGAINST OUR NATION. WE SHALL DEFEND THE CITIZENS OF ISRAEL AT THE PROPITIOUS TIME WITH EVERY MEANS AT OUR DISPOSAL.

(ENDALL)

8 JUN 1447Z JTD/SAH*****

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FBIS-31

IRAQ: RCC ISSUES STATEMENT ON ISRAELI ATTACK

TAKE 1--RCC STATEMENT

JN081603 BAGHDAD INA IN ARABIC 1540 GMT 8 JUN 81

("TEXT" OF RCC STATEMENT ON ISRAELI RAID ON NUCLEAR PLANT)

(TEXT) BAGHDAD, 8 JUN (INA)--IT HAS BEEN ANNOUNCED HERE THAT NINE ZIONIST ENEMY PLANES YESTERDAY RAIDED BAGHDAD, AIMING AT THE NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS.

IN A STATEMENT ISSUED TODAY, THE REVOLUTION COMMAND COUNCIL (RCC) SAID THAT THE ENEMIES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO DIMINISH OUR CAPABILITY TO ACHIEVE PROGRESS AND DEVELOPMENT, BOTH IN THE TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC FIELD AND IN THE SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATIONS FIELD.

THE RCC ASSERTED THAT THE MEN WHO, THROUGH THEIR LOYALTY TO THEIR PEOPLE AND NATION, THROUGH THEIR FAITH IN THEIR ISSUE AND THROUGH THEIR MINDS AND EFFORTS MANAGED TO ENABLE IRAQ TO OBTAIN NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY ON A LEVEL THAT INCITED RANCOR AND AGGRESSION ON THE PARTY OF THEIR ENEMIES ARE ALSO CAPABLE OF PROCEEDING ON THIS COURSE.

THE RCC POINTED OUT THAT IT HAS BEEN KNOWN SINCE THE BEGINNING THAT SEVERAL LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL QUARTERS HAVE STOOD AND CONTINUE TO STAND BEHIND THE RUSH OF THE IRANIAN REGIME TO INCITE CONFLICT WITH IRAQ. THESE QUARTERS WERE ALSO BEHIND THE CONTINUATION OF THIS WAR FOR SEVERAL MONTHS.

THE RCC ADDED THAT THESE QUARTERS HAVE GIVEN AND CONTINUE TO GIVE IRAN POLITICAL AND MILITARY AID AND SUPPORT INCLUDING THE INFORMATION AND THE DIRECT AND INDIRECT TECHNICAL AND INTELLIGENCE CONSULTATIONS TO ENABLE IT TO ATTAIN ITS EVIL OBJECTIVES AGAINST IRAQ.

(MORE)

8 JUN 1644Z JTD/CAJ

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FBIS 32

TAKE 2--31 (RCC STATEMENT)

/// OBJECTIVES AGAINST IRAQ.

(TEXT) THE FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF THE REVOLUTION COMMAND COUNCIL STATEMENT:

IN THE NAME OF GOD, THE MERCIFUL, THE COMPASSIONATE. GREAT IRAQI PEOPLE, SONS OF THE GLORIOUS ARAB NATION, IT HAS BEEN KNOWN TO US FROM THE BEGINNING THAT MANY PARTIES, LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL, WERE AND STILL ARE BEHIND THE EAGERNESS OF THE BACKWARD AND SUSPECT IRANIAN REGIME TO STIRE UP THE DISPUTE WITH, CONDUCT AGGRESSION AGAINST AND BEGIN THE WAR AGAINST IRAQ. THEY HAVE BEEN BEHIND THE CONTINUATION OF THIS WAR FOR SEVERAL MONTHS BECAUSE OF THEIR POLITICAL AND MILITARY SUPPORT AND BACKING FOR IRAN, INCLUDING INFORMATION, TECHNICAL CONSULTATIONS AND DIRECT AND INDIRECT MILITARY INTELLIGENCE, IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THEIR EVIL OBJECTIVES AGAINST IRAQ. THE MAIN PARY WAS THE ZIONIST ENTITY, WHICH UNDERSTANDS COMPLETELY THAT A LIBERATED, DEVELOPED AND CAPABLE IRAQ IS A DECISIVE FACTOR IN DETERMINING THE RESULTS OF THE ARAB CONFLICT AGAINST IT, TODAY AND TOMORROW.

THE ZIONIST ENTITY UNDERSTANDS THAT ONE OF THE MOST DECISIVE FACTORS IN DETERMINING THE FUTURE OF THE CONFLICT THE ARAB NATION IS WAGING AGAINST IT IS THE CONTINUED PRESENCE OF THE TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC GAP BETWEEN IT AND THE ARAB NATION. THEREFORE, IT IS TRYING BY ALL MEANS TO KEEP THIS GAP WITHIN LIMITS WHICH WILL NOT ENABLE THE ARAB NATION TO ACHIEVE VICTORY OVER IT IN THE CONFLICT.

BASED ON THIS STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE, THE ZIONIST ENEMY PARTICIPATED ON MORE THAN ONE OCCASION DIRECTLY AND INDIRECTLY WITH IRAN AGAINST IRAQ. THIS INCLUDED SUPPLYING IRAN WITH MILITARY EQUIPMENT AND SPARE PARTS. ZIONIST ENEMY PLANES ALSO RAIDED IRAQ IN THE FIRST DAYS OF THE WAR, THUS EXPLOITING THE WAR CIRCUMSTANCES AGAINST IRAN, IN COLLUSION WITH THE SUSPECT REGIME IN IRAN. THE RAIDS WERE AIMED IN PARTICULAR AT THE IRAQI NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS.

WE KNEW OF AND EXPOSED THE FIRST ATTEMPT, WHICH TOOK PLACE ON 27 JULY 1980. AT THE TIME WE BROADCAST A STATEMENT ABOUT TWO RAIDS ON BAGHDAD. HOWEVER, WE DID NOT MENTION THE ZIONIST ENEMY BY NAME FOR MILITARY AND POLITICAL REASONS AND FOR MORAL REASONS AND BECAUSE WE KNOW FROM EXPERIENCE THAT DECLARATIONS BY ARAB REGIMES ABOUT THE PARTICIPATION OF OTHER PARTIES IN CONFLICTS BETWEEN THEM AND THE ENEMIES WERE ALWAYS COUPLED WITH FAILURE AS WELL AS PRETEXTS AND JUSTIFICATIONS FOR THIS FAILURE. THAT IS WHY WE HINTED AT THE FACT AT THE TIME AND DID NOT DISCLOSE ALL ITS DETAILS OFFICIALLY.

(MORE)

DECLASSIFIED

ZBIS 38

TAKE 3 OF 3--31 (RCC STATEMENT)

/// ITS DETAILS OFFICIALLY.

(TEXT) COMPATRIOTS: TODAY WE DECLARE THAT THE ZIONIST ENEMY PLANES YESTERDAY CARRIED OUT AN AIR RAID ON BAGHDAD. AT 1837, A FORMATION OF NINE PLANES RAIDED THE NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS.

AS ON 27 SEPTEMBER 1980, WE PREFERRED NOT TO HASTEN IN ANNOUNCING THIS RAID. AS WE WERE PREPARING THIS STATEMENT AFTER COMPLETING ALL THE EVIDENCE ON THIS RAID, THE ZIONIST ENEMY THIS AFTERNOON CLAIMED RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE RAID.

O BROTHERS, SONS OF IRAQ AND SONS OF THE ARAB NATION: THIS TREACHEROUS OPERATION REVEALS TO YOU A BASIC AND IMPORTANT SIDE OF THE REASONS THAT PROMPTED THE SUSPECT REGIME IN IRAN TO KINDLE WAR WITH IRAQ AND CONTINUE THIS WAR FOR 10 MONTHS, DESPITE ALL THE EFFORTS THAT WERE EXERTED TO AVERT IT AND TO STOP IT ON A JUST AND HONORABLE BASIS THAT WOULD GUARANTEE THE LEGITIMATE RIGHTS AND INTERESTS OF BOTH IRAQ AND IRAN.

THE ZIONIST ENEMY IS TRYING TO ACHIEVE ITS OBJECTIVES AND TO ACHIEVE FOR THE RULERS IN TEHRAN AND QOM WHAT THEY HAVE FAILED TO ACHIEVE DURING THE 10 MONTHS OF THIS TREACHEROUS WAR.

MY BROTHERS, WE DECLARE, FROM A POSITION OF CAPABILITY AND OPTIMISM ABOUT FINAL VICTORY IN THE FIELDS OF CONFLICT WITH ALL THE ENEMIES OF THE ARAB NATION WHO ARE TRYING TO HALT ITS VICTORIOUS MARCH TOWARD FREEDOM, PROGRESS AND UNITY, THAT THESE ZIONIST AND PERSIAN ENEMIES, AND ALL THOSE WHO STAND BY AND SUPPORT THEM SECRETLY AND OPENLY, WILL NOT BE ABLE TO IMPEDE OUR ABILITY TO RISE AND PROGRESS, BY IT IN THE FIELD OF TECHNOLOGY OR IN THE FIELD OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CHANGE. THEY WILL NOT SHAKE THIS GIANT REVOLUTION FROM ITS DETERMINATION TO BE ONE WITH THE MASSES AND TO EXPRESS ITS HOPES AND ASPIRATIONS. THE MEN WHO HAVE BEEN ABLE THROUGH THEIR LOYALTY TO THEIR PEOPLE AND NATION, THEIR FAITH IN THEIR CAUSE AND THEIR MINDS AND EFFORTS, TO BRING IRAQ'S NUCLEAR POTENTIAL UP TO THE STANDARD WHICH CREATED THIS AMOUNT OF RANCOR AND BLATANT AGGRESSION BY THE ZIONIST AND PERSIAN ENEMIES MAKE US CONFIDENT THAT THEY ARE ALSO CAPABLE OF CONTINUING THIS TREND NO MATTER WHAT OUR ENEMIES TRY AND NO MATTER WHAT THESE ENEMIES MAKE US CONFIDENT THAT THEY ARE ALSO CAPABLE OF CONTINUING THIS TREND NO MATTER WHAT OUR ENEMIES TRY AND NO MATTER WHAT THESE ENEMIES CAN ACHIEVE IN THEIR ATTEMPTS TO DO DIRECT OR INDIRECT HARM.

THE ROAD IRAQ HAS TAKEN IN ITS VICTORIOUS REVOLUTION--THE ROAD OF FREEDOM, INDEPENDENCE AND PROGRESS, THE ROAD OF COHESION BETWEEN THE LEADERSHIP AND THE MASSES--WILL NOT BE ABANDONED. THIS ROAD WILL REMAIN WIDE OPEN. GOD WILLING, VICTORY TO OUR HEROIC PEOPLE AND GLORY TO OUR ARAB NATION.

END

(SIGNED) THE REVOLUTION COMMAND COUNCIL, BAGHDAD, IRAQ
1401, CORRESPONDING TO 8 JUNE 1981.

(ENDALL)

8 JUN 1812Z JTD/SAH